



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Finance Committee Minutes 05-03-2003

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

8:30 AM O'Neill room, community safety building

5/3/03

ATTENDEES:

Janowitz*	Feinleib*	O'Riordan*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors	Simmons	Morrisette*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst	Ronan*	
Piandes*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Selectman Jack Hurd, Paul Bayer

MINUTES of 4/30 accepted as printed. Unanimous.

NEW REVENUES: Hurd has arranged to increase meter fees in municipal lots from 25 cents to 50 cents an hour, stickers from \$25 to \$40 a month, and overnight stickers will cost \$365 a year. This is estimated to raise an additional \$265,000. He requested funds be restored to keep Fox Library open for two days at a cost of \$42,000. Restoration of library funds may assure \$50,000 State offset.

VOTED \$73,000 (\$42,000 to library, \$31,000 to Public Works), 10-5. May reconsider next year.

GENERAL: Tosti provided updated budgets, distribution charts, and budget summary. If the Finance Committee accepts the reductions recommended by the Manager, there will be a \$597,000 surplus. He recommended this be appropriated to the schools, which had reduced more than required.

ARTICLE 41 DISABILITY RETIREMENT: Foskett provided annual costs for this and the next two articles. This might cost \$10,000. Finance Committee members stated support for veteran preference. VOTED no action. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 42 VETERANS BUYBACK: Could be a one-time \$90,000 cost. VOTED to support, 10-5.

ARTICLE 43 PENSION ADJUSTMENT: Keeps retiree pensions from falling below 50% of current salary of retiree's position at retirement. Requires annual approval. Has been approved for many years. Annual impact varies around \$20,000 except \$160,000 year of pay plan revision. Benefit believed to encourage employees to stay on. VOTED favorable action, 13-4.

ARTICLE 48 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/PATROLMEN: Town Manager proposed a 1% salary (\$20,000) increase to pay for defibrillator training. Equipment donated to be carried in every patrol car. Some members thought extra pay not justified. Money in budget. VOTED favorable action, 9-8.

ARTICLE 49 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/RANKING POLICE OFFICERS: Same as Article 48. Some members doubted the need to train officers who seldom use patrol cars. VOTED favorable action, 9-8.

ARTICLE 51 SALARY ADJUSTMENT/ELECTED OFFICIALS: The Manager said they must accept the three-tier health plan co-pay. VOTED \$9,500 for a 3% COLA. VOTED favorable action, 15-1.

ARTICLE 52 FUTURE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: VOTED \$252,000 as recommended by Town Manager. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 55 DEFERRED COMPENSATION: Tosti recommended rebuilding the fund (now \$25,000) that would pay deferred compensation upon retirement. VOTED \$50,000 Unanimous.

ARTICLE 58 RESCIND AUTHORITY TO BORROW: No rescinding needed. VOTED no action. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 59 MINUTEMAN TECH: DeCoursey reported that the House budget might reduce Arlington's assessment to \$2,008 million, but his info is unofficial. He recommended a vote that would not support the Minuteman budget consistent with the vote of our School Committee member, Erin Phelps. The Town must, however, pay its assessment, thus money should be set aside. VOTED \$2 million with \$300,000 Reserve Fund increase, 11-6. DeCoursey to write comment for report.

ARTICLE 74 SCHOOL BORROWING CAP: Some members stated this cap would help preserve voter confidence in promises made by Town leaders. Others favored a more flexible approach, especially concerning Dallin School. A vote of no action was made. VOTED to substitute a vote of favorable action, 13-4. VOTED to approve favorable action with minor wording changes to original article, 15-2.

ARTICLE 75 TOWN FEE ADJUSTMENT: Board of Selectmen have reported.

ARTICLE 76 LOCAL OPTION TAXES: None proposed by State. VOTED no report at this time. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 77 TIP FEE STABILIZATION FUND: VOTED \$2,121,460. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 79 OVERLAY RESERVE: VOTED \$500,000. Unanimous

ARTICLE 80 FREE CASH: VOTED \$1,774,342. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 31,32 TRASH COLLECTION: VOTED no action in support of Board of Selectmen position, 15-2.

ARTICLE 33,34 CPA: VOTED no action in support of Board of Selectmen position, 12-5.

BUDGETS: With the exceptions reported below, budgets were voted as presented by appropriate subcommittees with limited discussion in most cases. Results are listed in the table below. The second figure is the addback if the override passes.

BUDGET 1 FINCOM: A motion to reconsider previous 30% stipend reduction passed. VOTED to reduce stipend by \$50 with remainder of reduction needed to meet O'Neill goal, (\$10,395) taken from reserve, 14-2.

BUDGET 17 PUBLIC SAFETY: Footnote to recommend vacancies occurring in management positions not be filled in order to maximize number of firemen and patrolmen.

OVERRIDE: VOTED to support \$4 million. Tosti will obtain proxies in order to have a full count.

COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee will meet at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall Hearing Room before Town Meeting begins (unless the 8:00 start is changed).

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$300,000

Peter B. Howard
Secretary

Budget & Article Action Summary

Bud #	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Art#	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote assigned to
1	4/26,5/8	4/26,5/8	10395	14-2	11	2/19	2/19	bylaw chng	11-2
2	4/26	4/26	292765	Unanimous	13	2/8	2/8	support	
3	4/26	4/26	274004	Unanimous	14	2/19		no report	
4	4/26	4/26	134685	Unanimous	16	4/26		Tabled	
5	4/26	4/26	758010 5000 Passed	Unanimous	17	2/19		no report	
6	4/26	4/26	530551	Unanimous	20	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
7	4/26	4/26	122753 25000	Unanimous	21	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
8	4/26	4/26	266375 10000	Unanimous	23				Foskett
9	4/26	4/26	595857	Unanimous	24				
10	5/8	5/8	190405	Unanimous	25	2/19		no report	
11	5/8	5/8	50326	Unanimous	26	3/26			
12	4/26	4/26	70374	Unanimous	27	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
13	5/8	5/8	187710 10000	Unanimous	30	2/26		info request	

